

**Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan
Executive Director Report for Board of Trustees Meeting
April 2022**

NEW HISTORY EXHIBIT:

1. The Board voted April 9, 2022, to hire Cornerstone Architects to provide the schematic drawings for the exhibit by the June 1 deadline for the MACC grant application.
2. The Committee is reviewing three proposals from exhibit design companies.
3. Once we get the schematic drawings for the new exhibit, board members from First Federal Legacy Foundation would like to visit the museum to discuss the Museum's grant request.
4. Preparations for grant submissions is ongoing. Grant opportunities the museum will be pursuing include State of Michigan Arts and Culture Capital Improvement (June 1) Alpena County Youth and Rec (May 2) Alpena County Older Persons (May 2) Community Foundation Impact Grant (July 15).
5. Board members have been given the Project Charter outline the renovation project. This is a living document and changes will be made as the project develops.
6. I am working with local experts to create subcommittee for each theme in the History exhibit. The ideas and information provided by each committee will be added to Project Charter under the High-Level Scope section. This section of the Charter describes what each section of the exhibit. This is the information the Besser Museum will provide the exhibit designers.

STAFF:

- Two part-time Museum Assistant (Collections) have been hired and are assisting Sarah with data input and other duties as needed; Jenna Escareno and Matt Wieschowski. We are still looking for a possible third part time position to assist with field trips and special events, i.e., Log Cabin and Fall Harvest. This year, I will be handling all the field trips.

BUILDING PROJECTS: Please refer to Matt's Facility Report for more details.

- To date, Woods and Johnson have almost completed the installation of the new chiller unit. Expected completion is May.
- Sprinkler head inspection: The sprinkler head inspection has passed. The museum will have its next inspection in 2032.

MUSEUM EXTERIOR:

The Capital Improvement projects funded by the Besser Foundation approved \$194,000 Capital Improvement grant are underway.

1. Todd Britton from Meridian plans to start removing the lower-level windows in May. He is just waiting for the weather to improve before construction begins. This is the first of the three projects on his proposal. The other projects are the columns and eaves, and the front approach.
2. Moran Iron Works plans to have the railing compete and ready for installation by the end of May. The art sculptures are expected to be completed and installed at the same time.

GREAT LAKES FISHERIES HERITAGE EXHIBIT:

- **Chinook:** We were awarded \$386,500 from the DNR Invasive Species Grant. The grant contract was finalized. The Committee will now proceed with drafting a proposal for bids for the structure to go over the Chinook.

- C.R. Yockey will be starting the landscaping to create a handicap accessible path to the exhibit.
- **Film Project:** Gary Goren videotaped Jim Johnson, Tuffy Cross, and Albert LaBlance. in January. Gary will continue working with these gentlemen to produce a short film about Great Lakes Fishing.

Planetarium:

- **Planet/History Walk** – Gary Goren would like to apply for a Youth and Rec grant.
- **Pendulum:** Matt is still working on issues with our pendulum. Matt discovered that access to the pendulum can be gained from the roof.
- **Science Saturdays:** Johnathan has developed a monthly Science Saturday program. He has invited the Library and Star Base who will be participating in these museum programs. The program held Saturday, March 26 and had over 159 visitors.
- **YouTube Videos:** Johnathan continues to produce short videos for the museum's YouTube channel and educational posts for the Planetarium Facebook page.
- **CNFEM Grant:** We received \$2,000 from CNFEM for the video "Birth of Planet Earth." We are using \$3,000 from the Harry Johnson Fund to cover the rest of the cost.

Misc.

- Log Cabin Day will take place Saturday, June 25. Some of the activities include:
 - Lauren from Hammond Bay Biological Station is bringing a sea lamprey.
 - Keith Knecht from Native Ways Traditional Arts, LLC will be a demonstrator.
 - Kim Sumerix may be a demonstrator setting up information about Alpena Dairy farming.
 - The historical buildings will be open for visits.
- The Modern Art Gallery will be closed at the end of May to prepare for the next exhibit, which will open in June. Brian Schorn will be contracted to set the exhibit and write the interpretive labels. This expense will be covered by the Candance Smith Fund.
- The Town That Wouldn't Die came in. Allegra is not happy with the quality of the book and is working with the printer. Allegra is working with the printing company to have them reprinted. They should arrive in twelve weeks.